

Message Text

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ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 ACDA-12 /096 W
-----115609 112107Z /64

R 110950Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8886
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 0042

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PBOR PDEV PDIP LA VM CB
SUBJECT: KAMPUCHEAN AMBASSADOR CALLS ON LPDR MINISTER OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS TO DISCUSS KAMPUCHEAN/SRV RELATIONS

REF: VIENTIANE 0011

1. THE JANUARY 11 ISSUE OF THE LPDR PARTY NEWSPAPER
"VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" REPORTED THAT KAMPUCHEAN AMBASSA-
DOR SAMSAN CALLED ON LPRPCC POLITBURO MEMBER AND LPDR
DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
PHOUNE SIPRASEUTH ON JANUARY 10 TO EXPLAIN THE
KAMPUCHEAN/SRV BORDER DISPUTE. THE ARTICLE REPORTED
THAT PHOUNE EXPRESSED HIS REGRETS THAT THE BORDER DIS-
PUTE HAD OCCURRED AND THAT THE HISTORICAL FRIENDLY
RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO FRATERNAL COUNTRIES AND
PEOPLES HAD BEEN DAMAGED. THE ARTICLE REPORTED THAT
THE LAO PEOPLE'S REVOLUTIONARY PARTY, THE LAO
GOVERNMENT, AND THE LAO PEOPLE SPEAKING AS COMRADES OF
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BOTH COUNTRIES, URGED THE KAMPUCHEANS AND VIETNAMESE TO
HOLD URGENT MEETINGS TO RESOLVE THE BORDER DISPUTE IN A
FRIENDLY, RESPECTFUL ATMOSPHERE.

2. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS DIRECTOR OF THE WESTERN
AND PACIFIC NATIONS SOMBAT CHOUNLAMANY TOLD EMBOFF
JANUARY 11 THAT THE BORDER DISPUTE BETWEEN KAMPUCHEA AND

THE SRV WAS "THEIR AFFAIR" BUT THAT THE LAO WERE PREPARED TO MEDIATE IF REQUESTED TO DO SO.

3. COMMENT: PHOUNE'S NEUTRAL AND CAUTIOUS REMARKS ARE SIMILAR TO HIS COMMENTS ON THE "BORDER ISSUE" REPORTED REFTEL. SOMBAT'S COMMENT TO EMBOFF CONFIRMS EXISTENCE OF LAO POLICY, ANTICIPATED REFTEL, TO TRY TO PLAY A NEUTRAL ROLE SO THAT THEY MAY BE ABLE TO MEDIATE IF CALLED UPON TO DO SO.

4. IN VIEW OF THE CONSIDERABLE VIETNAMESE INFLUENCE IN LAOS WE BELIEVE THAT THE LAO WILL FIND IT DIFFICULT TO MAINTAIN A NEUTRAL ROLE OVER A LONG PERIOD. THE LPDR HAS ALREADY PERMITTED THE SRV EMBASSY IN VIENTIANE TO CIRCULATE A "DECLARATION" EXPLAINING THE VIETNAMESE SIDE WHILE THE KAMPUCHEAN EMBASSY HAS NOT YET DONE THE SAME. THE "VOICE OF THE PEOPLE" ARTICLE JANUARY 11 MADE NO EFFORT TO REPORT THE CONTENT OF KAMPUCHEAN AMBASSADOR SAMSAN'S REMARKS TO PHOUNE.
ROBERTS

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